/7/ FORWARD

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Having been occupied for years with drawing up a comprehensive scientific study of the land of the Soviet Union, I have decided to cut off a piece of this country and to postpone the description of the whole country. For this I have selected the Far East for specific, authoritative reasons. It is of course known that Russia and also the Soviet Union transfer the emphasis in their political activity according to the circumstances at the time. At one time it lies in Europe, i.e. in the extreme west as viewed from the total expanse of Russia, and then again it lies in the opposite section of this immense empire, which the Russians and we too designate as the Far East. The latter is at present the case: the Soviet Russian Far Eastern regions constitute a base and a point of departure. The description of these regions in their basic geographic traits and in their economic bases and problems is the main task assigned to this work.

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The present work rests both on my own knowledge obtained on my trips and on detailed study of all available literature. My personal knowledge is limited, to be sure, to only a part of the Soviet Russian Far East; but nevertheless I have not hesitated to treat all regions. Decisive for me in this connection was the thought that even the best known Russian geographers, to whom we are indebted for a description of the entire Russian area, were acquainted with only part of the land from their own experience, and for the rest they had to rely on other researchers, their descriptions and findings. I may assert the same for the present work. In this connection it must be stated that Soviet scientific research has done work worthy of recognition. It is only regrettable that the numerous and valuable results of this research are not made accessible to foreign science. This applies to important branches of research in geography and especially to economics.

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In the subtitle this work is designated as a survey of the land and the economy, and it also shall not be more nor less than that. The space at my disposal doesn't permit going into great detail on the historical development or on the individual regions in the special section, as perhaps might be /8/ desired. It would have been possible; but it would have required volumes. Accordingly the treatment was consciously limited to broad lines in order to give, in addition to an overall view, a clear picture of the individual parts. In the

121 process much had to be dispensed with, and much investigation going into detail had to be left by the wayside in the interests of the whole. For the same reason the simplest possible presentation has been chosen for treating the subjects, without thereby reducing the scientific character of the work. In everything I have been led by the conviction that the present work would fill a gap existing not only in German literature but also in the general literature.

Since the natural resources of the land are of striking importance as a basis for the economy and its perspectives, treatment of the resources was given additional space, and, in conjunction with the past and clearly recognizable uses of the resources, an attempt was made to point out tendencies in the economic development. Only all the available sources and reports could be used for this because of the lack of official data, and, after careful consideration and critical evaluation, they were employed for judging economic progress and its problems. On this subject it is better to say too little than too much.

000 I owe thanks to many friends for much advice and many suggestions in drawing up the work and also for providing me with material. Very special thanks I owe to Prof. Dr. h.c. H. Lautensach, Stuttgart, Prof. Dr. G. Ipsen, Dortmund, Forest Master Dr. E. Buchholz, Reinbeck bei Hamburg, and Dr. H. Klocke, Wiesbaden. Last but not least I wish to thank Prof. Dr. Arved Schultz, Düsseldorf, my especially deserving teacher in the field of geographical research in the east; I will always remain bound to Prof. Schultz, who this year celebrated his seventieth birthday.

The Osteuropa-Institut, Munich, and its director, Prof. Dr. H. Koch I thank for accepting the work in the series of publications put out by the institute.

Munich, May 1953

Erich Thiel

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES ARMY FORCES, FAR EAST
AND EIGHTH UNITED STATES ARMY (REAR)
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000 USSR: MAGADAN, CAPITAL OF THE KOLYMA GOLD EMPIRE

Part I: The Rise of Magadan (1927-1946)

1) Introduction

2) Physical Features of Kolyma

3) Administration

4) Population

5) Development of the Kolyma Area (1927-1931)

6) Assumption of Control by Dalstroy (Far Eastern Construction Administration) - 1931-1932

a. The Leadership of Berzin (1932-1937)

b. Violence under Garanin (1937-1938)

c. Blundering of Vyshnyevetsky (1938-1941)

d. The Regime of Nishikov (1941-present?)

7) The Kolyma Buildup (1932-1946)

8) The City of Magadan

9) Summation

Part I. The Rise of Magadan (1927-1946)

316 466 1) Introduction: Until the early 1930's the Kolyma region in the northeastern section of Siberia was practically deserted; the only population consisted of several native tribes who were engaged primarily in reindeer breeding. Approximately 175 independent miners were also in the area for the purpose of extracting gold from the rich fields around the Kolyma River; however, in 1931 the Soviet Government, at that time completely lacking gold reserves, began one of its largest enterprises until that time—the exploitation of Kolyma gold on an increasing scale. Labor was primarily prisoners, both criminal and "counter-revolutionary," who were sent to the Magadan area by the hundreds of thousands yearly in an attempt to build the area into a self-sufficient region with only one mission—ship every available ounce of gold to Moscow.

115 121 The information contained in this report is primarily derived from published reports made by prisoners who have returned from the Kolyma area after having served their prison terms as forced laborers. Although admittedly this report is historical in nature rather than a concise evaluation of the present situation, it was considered appropriate, due to a lack of general information and knowledge of the area, to present

115 121 a survey of the development and buildup of the Magadan-Kolyma area with the intention of serving as an introduction to subsequent reports on current activities in the Kolyma region.

[134 634] 2) Physical Features of Kolyma: Kolyma is that region in the northeastern part of Siberia, named for the Kolyma River; the boundaries have never been made public, but it is generally considered correct to state that the entire administrative entity is bordered on the north by the Arctic Ocean, on the east by the Sea of Okhotsk, and on the south and west by the impenetrable forests of the taiga. In the early 1930's the territory consisted only of the districts of the gold fields on the upper Kolyma and the highway which was being constructed to connect the gold fields with the coast of the Sea of Okhotsk (Magadan-Srednikan-Seimchan Highway). With the passage of time other areas were added to the territory; some claim that at present the entire region encompasses not only the Kolyma area and that part bordering on the Sea of Okhotsk but also the regions along the Yana and Indigirka Rivers in addition to the whole of the Chukotsk region and Kamchatka.

Another estimate of the geographical boundaries of the territory claims that the entire Soviet Far East is under the jurisdiction of Khabarovsk Krai (a "krai" is a political subdivision), which in turn contains the following component parts: The Jewish Autonomous Oblast, Lower Amur Oblast, and Kamchatka Oblast (This last Oblast is claimed to comprise Chukchi and Koryak national okrugs; in addition, there are supposedly two distinct areas of oblast size within the Krai: One centered at Khabarovsk and the other at Magadan in the Kolyma territory, in which the constituent rayons come under the direct jurisdiction of the Khabarovsk Krai administration.

625 631 471 Be that as it may, there is ample evidence to support the contention that neither of the two above cited political divisions are technically correct; due to the establishment of Dalstroy (Far Eastern Construction Administration) in 1931-1932, it may be stated with considerable justification that the jurisdiction of Dalstroy extends over all northeast Siberia at the present time, taking in all the land east of the Lena River and north of the River Aldan. If this is the case, the total area is approximately six times that of metropolitan France or some 1,400,000 square miles.

In other words, it is quite clear that the exact geographical boundaries of the region are not known, but it may be at least assumed that Dalstroy, which is an organ of the MVD, has complete control of at least the Kolyma region and most likely the northern areas of Chukchi and Koryak. That the MVD under the name of Dalstroy is in control of large tracts of territory is a proven fact, but the territorial limitations of this organization are not clear.

642 625 3) Administration: The Constitution of the USSR is not formally operative throughout this vast area[1] (equal to approximately 40% of the United States proper), and the usual authority of regional Soviet agencies does not apply. There are no local Soviets in the territory, nor do elections occur with the exception of those for the Supreme Soviet. However, even in this instance, it is worthy of note that the Kolyma representative in the Soviet of Nationalities is Lieutenant General Nishikov of the MVD, chief of Dalstroy. The widespread area and activities under the Dalstroy administration have resulted in an organization where the economic life of the region is combined with legislative, judicial, administrative, and police functions. In the general structure of governmental authority in the USSR, Dalstroy occupies a unique position; it is beyond all doubt an organ of the MVD, and its official name is "Dalstroy MVD." In the organization of the MVD, Dalstroy comes under the authority of one of the Deputy Ministers.

[1] [i.e., the Kolyma region of Siberia — Analyst]

10: Laufer--361 E-3 (no date) 1917 Northeast Asia
116, 756, 121

"ORIGIN OF THE WORD SHAMAN

In Chinese Clay Figures (p. 198) the writer had occasion to discuss briefly the history of our word shaman, and to refer at the close of his naturally succinct note to the new theory of J. Németh, according to which the term should be an ancient constituent of the Turkish-Tungusian languages. The latter reference was an addition inserted in the proofs at the moment when Mr. Németh's article reached me (summer 1914), but since then it has been possible to scrutinize his theory at close range, with the result that it can be confirmed and even be supported with new data and arguments. As ethnologists may be expected to take an interest in the history of a term which has become part and parcel of anthropological nomenclature, and the origin of which has given rise to numerous discussions and speculations, a brief examination of the case might not be unwelcome to the readers of the Anthropologist."